

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the consideration shown by the United States Patent Office, as evidenced by the April 20, 2007 Office Action. The April 20, 2007 Office Action has been carefully considered.

This response is intended as a complete reply to the Office Action dated April 20th, 2007 and the Examiner Interview of June 1, 2007. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

NOVELTY

Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected under 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Haugen United States Patent No. 2,66,591 (Haugen). Claims 1-2, 7, and 9 stand under 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Pozo United States Patent No. 4,809,883. Claims 10, 15, 17-18, 21, and 23-25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Evans United States Publication No. 2004/0166032. To expedite issuance of this application, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 29, independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 11 and independent claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 26. Independent claims 1, 10 and 21, as amended, have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

Claims 29, 11 and 26 are cancelled without prejudice. The Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of independent claims 1, 10 and 22 in its form prior in one or more continuing applications.

Thus, as independent claims 1, 10 and 21 are patentable over Haugen, Pozo and Evans, claims 2-3, 7, 9, 15, 17-18 and 23-25 that depend from independent claims 1, 10 and 21 are also patentable over Haugen, Pozo and Evans. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the allowance of these claims.

NONOBVIOUSNESS**Claims 6 and 8**

Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Haugen for reasons of record delineated in the office action of October 30, 2006. However, in light of the amendment to independent claim 1 described above, claims 6-8 are patentable over Haugen at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicant request the rejection be withdrawn and claims 6 and 8 be allowed.

Claims 27-33

The Office Action rejected claims 27-33 under 103(a) allegedly obvious over Haugen in view of Evans United States Publication No. 2004/0186032. However, as discussed during the June 1, 2006 interview, Evans does not preclude patentability of claims 27-33 under 103(c). A statement of common ownership was provided in the Response to Office Action filed August 1, 2006. In the interview on June 1, 2007, the Examiner has indicated that claims 27-33 are allowable, if rewritten in independent form to include the limitation of the base and intervening claims. As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 29, thus, making claims 27-28 in condition for allowance. Claim 30-33 are in condition for allowance by virtue of there dependency from independent claim 10, which has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 11. Accordingly, the Applicant request claims 27-28 and 30-33 be allowed.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 11-14, 19, 20, 22, and 26 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 19 has been rewritten in allowable form, while independent claims 10 and 21 have been amended to incorporate all the limitations of claims 11 and 26.

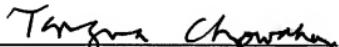
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CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicant submits that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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